AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

Claims 1 to 30 (canceled)

Claim 31 (currently amended): A diagnostic reagent for hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection comprising a solid phase sensitized with

(a) a ~~mixture of a~~ genetic recombinant HCV antigen having a molecular weight of 10,000 or more and

(b) conjugated ~~synthesized~~ HCV antigens comprising ~~which comprise~~

~~(i) a first HCV antigen conjugated with a carrier protein;~~

(ii) a second HCV antigen conjugated with a carrier protein;

wherein each of the first HCV antigen and the second HCV antigen has a molecular weight of less than 10,000.

32. (currently amended): The diagnostic reagent of claim 31, wherein the genetic recombinant HCV antigen comprises [[is]] an HCV non-structural region protein ~~proteins~~.

33. (currently amended): The diagnostic reagent of claim 31, wherein the genetic recombinant HCV antigen comprises [[is]] NS3 antigen.

34. (currently amended): The diagnostic reagent of claim 31, wherein the first and second ~~synthesized~~ HCV ~~antigen is~~ antigens are independently selected from the group consisting of HCV non-structural region proteins and HCV structural region proteins.

35. (previously presented): The diagnostic reagent of claim 31, wherein the solid phase is directly sensitized with the genetic recombinant HCV antigen.

36. (currently amended): A diagnostic reagent for hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection comprising a solid phase sensitized with (a) a ~~mixture of a~~ genetic recombinant HCV antigen having

a molecular weight of 10,000 or more and (b) one or more ~~synthesized~~ conjugated HCV antigens, wherein the ~~synthesized~~ conjugated HCV antigen [[is]] comprises a HCV antigen conjugated with a carrier protein and has a molecular weight of less than 10,000.

37. (currently amended): The diagnostic reagent of claim 36, wherein the ~~synthesized~~ HCV antigen of the conjugated HCV antigen is selected from the group consisting of core ~~peptide~~ antigen, NS4 ~~peptide~~ antigen and NS5 ~~peptide~~ antigen.

38. (currently amended): The diagnostic reagent of claim 36, wherein the ~~synthesized~~ HCV antigen of the conjugated HCV antigen is selected from the group consisting of HCV non-structural region proteins and HCV structural region proteins.

39. (currently amended): The diagnostic reagent of claim 36, wherein the ~~synthesized~~ HCV antigen of the conjugated HCV antigen comprises core ~~peptide~~ antigen, NS4 ~~peptide~~ antigen and NS5 ~~peptide~~ antigen.

40. (currently amended): The diagnostic reagent of claim 36, wherein the carrier protein and the ~~synthesized~~ HCV antigen of the conjugated HCV antigen are present at a ratio of about 1:3 to 1:20 (carrier protein: ~~synthesized~~ HCV antigen).

41. (currently amended): The diagnostic reagent of claim 36, wherein the carrier protein comprises [[is]] a water-soluble protein.

42. (previously presented): The diagnostic reagent of claim 41, wherein the water-soluble protein is selected from the group consisting of BSA, ovalbumin and hemocyanin.

43. (previously presented): The diagnostic reagent of claim 36, wherein the genetic recombinant HCV antigen is conjugated with a carrier protein.

Claims 44 to 50 (canceled)

51. (currently amended): The diagnostic reagent of claim 31, wherein the solid phase comprises [[is]] carrier particles.

Claims 52 to 54 (canceled)

55. (previously presented): The diagnostic reagent of claim 51, wherein the carrier particle is selected from the group consisting of polystyrene latex particle, copolymer latex particle, erythrocyte and gelatin particle.

56. (currently amended): The diagnostic reagent of claim 36, wherein the solid phase comprises [[is]] carrier particles.

57. (previously presented): The diagnostic reagent of claim 56, wherein the carrier particles are selected from the group consisting of polystyrene latex particle, copolymer latex particle, erythrocyte and gelatin particle.

58. (new): The diagnostic reagent of claim 31, wherein the first or second HCV antigen comprises a synthetic peptide.

59. (new): The diagnostic reagent of claim 58, wherein the synthetic peptide has a molecular weight of 1,000 to 5,000.

60. (new): The diagnostic reagent of claim 36, wherein the HCV antigen of the conjugated HCV antigen comprises a synthetic peptide.

61. (new): The diagnostic reagent of claim 60, wherein the synthetic peptide has a molecular weight of 1,000 to 5,000.

62. (new): The diagnostic reagent of claim 31, wherein the solid phase comprises a microtiter plate or a test tube.

63. (new): The diagnostic reagent of claim 36, wherein the solid phase comprises a microtiter plate or a test tube.